

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ENRG,

SUBJECT: LNG - THE PRESIDENTS ENERGY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS,
FEBRUARY 26, 1976

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CAIRO PASS UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 26, 1976 DEALING WITH LNG.

ENERGY MESSAGE QUOTE: WE EXPECT IMPORTS OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) TO GROW IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS TO SUPPLEMENT OUR DECLINING DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS. WE MUST BALANCE THESE SUPPLY NEEDS AGAINST THE RISK OF BECOMING OVERLY DEPENDENT ON ANY PARTICULAR SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

RECOGNIZING THESE CONCERNS, I HAVE DIRECTED THE ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING PROPOSED CONTRACTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BALANCING THE NEED FOR SUPPLIES WITH THE NEED TO AVOID EXCESSIVE DEPENDENCE, AND ENCOURAGING NEW IMPORTS WHERE THIS IS APPROPRIATE. BY 1985, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO IMPORT 1 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF LNG TO HELP MEET OUR NEEDS WITHOUT BECOMING OVERLY DEPENDENT UPON FOREIGN SOURCES. END QUOTE.

2. A FACT SHEET ATTACHED TO THE ENERGY MESSAGE FURTHER OUTLINES THE ROLE OF LNG WITHIN THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PROGRAM.

THE PRESIDENT'S LONG-TERM ENERGY PROGRAM - NATURAL GAS:
QUOTE: LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (ADMINISTRATIVE): THE PRESIDENT DIRECTED THE ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (ERC) TO IMPLEMENT A NEW NATIONAL POLICY REGARDING IMPORTED LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG). EACH PROPOSED NEW PROJECT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A CAREFUL NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC REVIEW, BUT IT APPEARS THAT ABOUT ONE TRILLION CUBIC FEET PER YEAR OF LNG BY 1985 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. A MAJOR FACTOR IN REVIEWING PROPOSED PROJECTS WILL BE DIVERSIFICATION OF SOURCES. AN ERC TASK FORCE WILL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONSIDERATION OF SUCH ISSUES AS PRICING, GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, REGIONAL IMPORT DEPENDENCE, SOURCE OF SUPPLY, AND POSSIBLE REASSESSMENT OF THE TARGET IF DEREGULATION IS NOT ACHIEVED.
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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